

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

No Paper Next Week

No paper next week. For explanation and other very important announcements see next page (2).

The Credit Side

We like to see this column full of large figures. There is neither pleasure nor profit in the debit column. Do not turn away at this point, and say that we are going to dun for arrears to the Publishing House. We are not going to talk about arrears. We are not going to talk about temporal matters at all, but spiritual, tho the temporal matters of the Publishing House are very near akin to the spiritual. The subject of arrears is always unwelcome. Blessed be God, who has provided a plan by which we can have all our debts to his holy law cancelled. This is the beginning of salvation. It is the credit side on the spiritual ledger that we want to contemplate for a little while. Paul told the Philipians that he wanted them to do certain good works that should "abound to their account." If it was right and proper for them to have an eye to credits in the final settlement of accounts, it must be right for us too. Of course the first thing that we think of is that great credit of Christ's merits, his atonement, his sufferings, his death, which is set to our account by faith. Upon this fundamental basis rest all the hopes of our ultimate salvation, and all the incidents and accessories of that salvation. Everything that the Christian is permitted to hope is predicated upon the cross. And all that we shall enjoy in the world to come will be ours for Christ's sake, that unto him may be all the glory, as it should be. Upon this rock we build our house, that it may withstand the storms and floods, and whatever comes.

Infinitely needful and precious is this credit, but the apostle contemplated other credits, evidently, and so may we. We are familiar with the doctrine of the recording angel. Somehow or other an account is kept. You have only to run your eye back over your past life, and you realize at once that your own memory is

pretty good keeper of accounts. Conscience tells you in which column to put this and that transaction. The marching of the days, the procession of the years, lengthens out the column. Small and few are the credits; many and appalling are the debits. But when we take this account book of our past and unprofitable lives to Christ, and have that debit column cancelled by the red ink of the cross, a marvelous thing happens. What marvelous thing? Is it not sufficiently wonderful that our sins can be blotted out? Do we still ask for miracles, more and more wonderful? Perhaps in the winding up we will find them in this fact, that the logical fruits of our sins, the crops which they bear as the years go by, accumulating and multiplying; that terrifying thought that they become an endless force and influence for evil, perhaps in the lives and characters of others; that all this sequence of our sins is abolished, nullified, headed off, thwarted, destroyed, by an over-ruling providence. If this is a rational and scriptural hope for the Christian, and we think it is, what a cause for gratitude and praise does it become upon us.

Now in the very nature of things, there is no blotting out of the credit column, neither as regards its facts or its sequences. Nobody wants them blotted out. We do not, neither does God. And more, in answer to humble and believing prayer he adds his blessing to every good work, causing it to multiply and become fruitful in an endlessly ascending ratio, until who can tell what a wonderful column that credit column of ours may finally become. When will it stop growing? Who can answer that question? Perhaps it will not stop until eternity comes to an end, and that will be long indeed. Why should it stop? Who will put an end to the blessed influence of a good deed? So we may earnestly desire that every possible good work may set to our account, not that they shall give us any merit, but that we may have the eternal joy of gathering the blessed fruitage of this godly sowing. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and it shall return after many days." "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand."